

## ABSTRACT

An online automobile auction, which allows the consumer to participate by using their home or portable computers and accessing the system via an Internet connection.

- 5 Before the designated time for an auction, the consumer may access the database of available automobiles. Along with displaying visual depictions of the vehicles, the computer system affords the consumer the ability to access statistics on the current inventory of vehicles. Prior to the auction, using an automated auction feature, a plurality of bidders input their minimum starting bid, the maximum bid and the incrementing
- 10 value. Bidders are also allowed to bid on vehicles during the auction process.